

FORMATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Mr. S. N. Ure : Sir, I move that the question whether any proportion of the members of the Public Service Advisory Committee should be thrown open for election by the Legislature be taken into consideration. About 2 years ago on a resolution by the two Houses of the Legislature a Public Service Advisory Committee was formed. In the resolution it was suggested that the Committee should consist of seven non-official members consisting of a Nair, an Ezhava, a Backward community, a Catholic, a non-Catholic, a Muslim and a Lady. In the rules that were drawn up for the composition of this committee there was no mention of the specific classes of the community. But the nominations by Government were made in strict conformity with the resolution. The term of the committee expired a few months ago. And now it has to be decided whether any proportion of that committee should be thrown open for election by the Legislature or not.

President : Before the House expresses its opinion one way or the other, I wish to make one point clear. In such matters as these, it is the intention of the Government to abide by the opinion expressed by the House.

The question is whether any proportion of the members of the Public Service Advisory Committee should be thrown open for election by the Legislature.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : If it is by election, it is not possible to keep up the proportion of the various communities which constitute the committee at present.

President : Technically, it can be, because it depends on a matter of self-ordinance of the two Houses. If, for instance, the Assembly elects an Ezhava gentleman and a Nair gentleman, this House may elect by means of mutual co-operation a Catholic or somebody else, the representative of which community has not been elected by the Assembly. So it is possible by mutual adjustment but not otherwise.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : But it is not possible to come to such an agreement. If it is by election, the Assembly may elect two or three members from the same community.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : May I know what is the difficulty with regard to the compromise?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : By practice it has been found that it will be difficult. I think it will be very difficult, nay impossible for the two Houses to come to such an agreement. So, if we resort to election it may be that the Assembly may elect 1 or 2 members from the same community or from two communities. When the election

[Mr. K. M. Kesavan].

is made from the Council there is the possibility of again electing members from the same community. To say that the members of one community elected by one House should not be elected by the other House, will be denying a privilege to this House. So, I think the best method to be resorted to is to retain the composition of the committee as such, and to request Government to nominate the members from the two Houses of the Legislature. That will be the most workable and the best means of retaining the popular nature of the committee also.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : I also think that nomination is better than election, though I do not agree with the reasons advanced by the honourable member who spoke just before me. I do not think there is any difficulty in coming to any agreement as to the communal representation in the Committee. My reason for suggesting nomination is that because there is already a ratable ratio fixed for the several communities, it is better to leave the discretion to Government to choose the best members from each community to the Advisory Committee.

The motion was put and the proposition that the composition of the Committee should be by nomination was declared carried.

MOTION RE: LICENSING OF DOCUMENT- WRITERS.

Mr. K. Madhava Kurup : Sir, I move that the question of introducing a scheme for the licensing of document-writers be taken into consideration. There is at present no control by anybody over document-writers and the mistakes they commit are very great. Much of the litigation is due to the mistakes committed by them. Government are alive to the mischief they do. They also consider it desirable to institute an examination of competency. Licenses are issued in some provinces in British India.

President : I may say that if this House is to accept the spirit of the resolution, the idea of the Government is to constitute a Committee for the purpose of working out the details of the scheme, such as the qualifications to be fixed for document writers, penalties to be levied in case of mischief and all that. Now the resolution is open to discussion.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : Much of the present litigation is due to want of knowledge on the part of document-writers. Laymen come to the field and calling themselves document writers do much mischief. During the course of trial of parties when cases come to the court, it is very often revealed that it is the document